



6 Election

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 04724.0085-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Takashi NARUSE, et al.)
Serial No.: 09/317,916) Group Art Unit: 3641
Filed: May 25, 1999) Examiner: K. Kevin Mun
For: MAINTENANCE METHOD IN)
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the Office Action dated August 16, 2000, please issue an Office Action on the merits in accordance with the following election of species.

In the Office Action, the Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between two allegedly distinct species of the claimed invention. In response, Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute, without traverse, the species of group A, drawn to a maintenance method applied to a suppression pool, on which claims 1-22 are readable.

Applicants also respectfully request appropriate rejoinder and examination of any withdrawn claims in the event the Examiner determines that a generic claim is allowable. Additionally, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned Applicants' representatives at (202) 408-6052 if necessary to further expedite the prosecution of this application and, thereby, minimize time and expense.

LAW OFFICES

NNEGAN, HENDERSON,
FARABOW, GARRETT,
& DUNNER, L.L.P.
1300 I STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
202-408-4000